

The
 inaugural dissertation
 on
 the influence of the
 Passions
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 Diseases.

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The passions are of two kinds, viz: Such as increase the force of the Heart and arteries, and are consequently stimulant; and such as debilitate or depress them, producing a sedative effect; all the emotions do not constitute any part of the subject of this essay, yet it will not be deemed unimportant to include a distinction between them and passions, and thus clarify the confusion of making them synonymous with the latter.

Those sensible effects which are perceived to arise from the predominance of a particular passion or sensation, have been denominated emotions: the terror which prevails the coward in the hour of danger appears in the wild expression of his face, the agitation of his limbs, and the movements of his body: these constitute emotions.

Dr. Rush admits the following distinction between them; passions have for their object future, and emotions present good and evil.

There are two classes of affections of the mind, the one exercises a hurtful, the other a salutary influence upon the system; the first comprehends Envy, jealousy, Fear, Grief and anger; the second Hope, Love, Ambition, &c. &c.

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It will be proper to consider the diseases which
are produced by the passions, and then the effects
of the same agents; in restoring the body to a
State of health.

With a view to elucidate those positions, it
will be necessary to bring such facts into view, as
I have been able to collect, not only from the
writings of a few ancient authors, but also from
the testimony of many persons in modern times.

As it would necessarily enlarge this essay
beyond proper limits, I have therefore confined
myself to the investigation of Grief, Fear,
Anger and Joy. Having, permitted the above
succinct observations, I proceed to the consid-
eration of each in the order intended to be
pursued.

Of Grief

This passion exerts a very pernicious influence
on the system: we may well conceive and be ena-
bled to form some judgement of its operation,
by witnessing the changes induced on the
animal economy by its operation in the pri-
vation of that domestic contentment, which
a parent sustains in the death of his beloved.

Of Prof

[illegible]

Offspring. We witness the departure of the most important agents, in the promotion and support of health and life. It is in this condition of human suffering the physician finds the ravage committed on the mind and body; When it is indulged to excess and when the system has been long under its influence, it produces a degree of torpor in every vital part: the mind is corroded, the body wasted and infatigable. It produces indigestion and paleness of the countenance, languor of the circulation, coldness of the extremities, contraction and shrinking of the skin, weakness of the appetite; it sometimes infuriates and deranges the mind.

Although the effects of grief are for the most part gradual, yet when suddenly excited, it has prostrated the functions of life with the rage of epidemic violence.

Dr Rush, in his account of the influence of the American Revolution on the body, states, that numerous instances of Apoplexy in the Winter of 1774-5, from the Sanguitudo which prevailed, concerning the event of a petition to the throne of Great Britain, which was to protract the war; "It was observed in South-

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"Carolina" says the Doctor "that several gentlemen, who had protected their estates by swearing allegiance to the British government, died soon after the evacuation of Charleston, by the British Army: their deaths were ascribed to the neglect, with which they were treated by their ancient friends, who had adhered to the government of the United States.

Professor James, presents the following remarks; "That grief exerts an injurious influence on the system during the period of gestation, for those unfortunate females who have been seduced from the paths of Virtue, and are forced to retire from their families and friends, to hide the publicity of their shame, by continually dwelling on their situation, become so irritable that the slightest causes produce convulsions: Hence, the importance of guarding against the exciting causes of passion; knowing the pernicious influence they have on women, during the period of gestation and parturition.

Case 1st

Case Sweden. Vol. 16 page 251 relates from

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Montague the following case; viz. while ever
best named the Baron of a Soldier in battle,
and were much grieved, when at last they saw
him fall; his arms were taken from him that
they might know who he was. A Nobleman
whose restority is still in great esteem, and
confirmed to me the truth of this fact, some
returning among the rest, and seeing it was
his Son, he grew stiff with his eyes open, and
immediately fell down dead.

Of Fear

This passion maintains a sovereignty in its
morbid effects, not less considerable than grief. It
is one which pervades the class of mankind to
a less extent than the illiterate its influence
has wider limits, while the cultivated and
improver minds of the better educated portion
of the community are not as frequently controlled
by its influence: in the latter condition of un-
learned humanity, the vivid flush of the lightning,
the awful peals of "savage's artillery," the bound-
less cataract, are rather romantic subjects of delight
to the eye than fear. Their causes excite the action

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investigation of the philosophick mind; while the
unimpaired intellect agitated by a host of an-
nounced and threatening mischiefs trembles
to advance beyond its habitual conviction of
error. It is the contrary with grief, this passion
has its dominion acknowledged from the impe-
rial and august sovereign, to the unregarded war-
rior and mendicant. *F. Crichton* remarks
that this emotion, is never excited in the human
breast, but through the medium of foresight,
for although it may arise from present calamities
as well as past, yet it is not the uncertainty
which the calamities occasions, we all fear, but
that which arises from what we think will
happen.

The love of life has been regarded as the chief
ruling principle in man, whatever undugested,
will excite furious emotions proportionate in
force to the leniency with which we return fear,
therefore in as much as it is a passion which con-
sists in an apprehension of ill from offensive
causes, and an aversion to exposure to such ill
where we is affected but, will be diminished to
proportion with its degree exceeding others.

The longer the habitations, the more will a ten



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subside with the gratification of a redemptive motive or
awards the influence of time, in which we grasp the
sympathetic tear and the consolation of friends,
with sometimes a surge it, with the accomplishment
of its purpose, subsides with exultation, subsides
into tranquil repose; but, on when it is excited
by the prospect of evil to the safety of life, seldom admits
of the sympathetic friends or time, to remove its
accompanying, or conclude.

Martyrs and men of brave resolute their lives
with composure at the dreadful state where flames
mutilated their bodies, but how the passion of
fear was displaced by the unimagined, impelled
to the murder by dwellers on the helix of another
other world, and the conclusion of a terrible and
merciful incident.

Fear when it exists to any extent produces a
distressing mischievous effects, the symptoms which in-
dicate fear, are distension of the countenance, increase
of respiration, weakness of the pulse, tremors and
agitation of the whole body; when it amounts to
extreme terror fatal convulsions ensue, or the
body is sunk down into the disease called distalting
this are the prominent effects of fear; but it then
excites a new passion and still acts in in-

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once upon the body, and this has been often observed during the paroxysms of epidenies.

The toll of the toll and the passing corpse, have turned out of the world numbers of patients suffering under the preceding disease.

But its origin is not accurately given in nervous system, it has often been the cause of asthma, pleurisy, mania, hæmorrhage and even in some cases, has been traced to a powerful shock produced upon the system, by the sight of a terrible specter.

Case 3^d

John Swinton informs us, Vol 10. p. 332. that a boy was so frightened by a large dog jumping upon him, that soon after he fell down & had fits; and afterwards on seeing a large dog, or even hearing him bark, the paroxysms returned.

That convulsions may be excited only by excitations others affected with fits, apoplexy, from the same, it is evident.

Crozier has furnished the world with several instances of Epilepsy, one particularly in which Epilepsy was complicated with mania.

[illegible]

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and insanity; the following is the case.

(Case 1st.)

A young man aged 23, was in his 8th year suddenly frightened by a dog, the impression then received, and used to awaken him at night being then always haunted with the idea of his being attacked by the animal: he was at first seized by the epilepsy, the paroxysms of which occurred every half hour, but which after some time continued only about 10 minutes, a violent action being given, loss of appetite, violent head-ache and weakness of the understanding; delirium ensued and continued for several days together, which symptoms were succeeded by vertigo after various continuance there was.

(Case 2nd.)

A person in our hospital fell down in an epileptic fit, in the sight of the other patients. The next day was a storm, that sensation of them became immediately affected in the same manner, and their paroxysms continued, and were repeated at the

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sight of an another in that state the opinion
that must signify. ^{See} however, was against
in this reason, so industriously collected that there
its were originally produced by impressions on the
minds that the most proper means of cure, would be
to eradicate these impressions by others still more
powerful: he therefore directed several entertainments to be
prepared, and thought not, in readiness to be ap-
plied to the person who should next be affected.
the consequence was, that afterwards not one per-
son was seized: Vide Galena. on the passions p. 100.

The influence of fear in producing death, appears
to be completely verified, in an account, of a peacock
which was brought in by night, in a polish soldier
which terminated in death in the course of twenty
days. Vide Character. Vol. 2. p. 264. fear had
occurred was the disease of tetanus; of this Dr. Rush
has mentioned an instance in a soldier who was
condemned to be shot, but on being pardoned was
unable to rise from the posture in which he was
found to meet his doom.

An instance remarkable for the cause, which
induced death, thus the medium of fear, is stated
in Deichm. A lady, quitted all her senses
several without action seen the count, when

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appeared in W. St. nason, who attempted to examine it by a telescope, the sight of it in this way terrified him so much that he was with difficulty carried home, and the impression remaining, the died in a few days afterwards.

A change of colour may appear, the effect this injure produced in the hair of the head, then giving it to a gray colour, appears to be well without healed, in the Literary Magazine, Vol 2 p. 193. there is an anecdote related of a boy, in one of the remotest parts of the county of Ulster, in Scotland, whose hair was turned from a dark Auburn to gray, in the course of a quarter of an hour.

This is further confirmed by the case of a much gentleman related by Boulton, and quoted by Dr. Whistler, in whom the same change was effected during one night.

Dr. Rush relates the case of a man's hair becoming gray from fear, in consequence of the earth quake that destroyed Lisbon in the year 1755. the pernicious effects of fear, upon the female system is well known, it has induced abortion, suppres-
sion of catamenia and milk.

Various adduced these instances of the evidently morbid influence of fear, and mentions

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Of Anger

This is a passion suddenly excited, and which
then we see suddenly subside; equally furious and
unaccountable in its nature, it may justly be consid-
ered as a transient fit of madness. When the
mind is under its empire influence and unprop-
erly indulged, it cannot fail to produce violent
intrusions in the system: it is in the mind, what
a choleric is in the atmosphere: it disturbs its
tranquillity, usurps the throne of reason, and is
indeed to every species of rashness and indiscretion.
Which is too frequently productive of the most
savage and atrocious deeds. Hence to those who
are constitutionally exposed to its influence, we
should strenuously recommend to shun, to use
every effort to restrain this odious abolition of
the human.

The qualities which designate this passion, are
observed at a mere glance: the face for the most
part crimsoned, the eyes sparkling with fire, an
effulgent countenance becomes immediately visible;

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they took of his sheep deer; he ran out with an iron
 spear in his hand and pursued them, and they
 still continuing to torment him, he became so
 highly enraged, that he fell dead in an apoplexy.

1st Rustell. N. H. lectures.

(11th 2nd)

The same author mentions the case of a miser who
 at last, amidst complaining to a his physician,

(11th 3rd)

In the life of the celebrated Mr John Hunter,
 it is said he fell a victim to this passion, which
 induced an apoplexy of which he immediately died.

of Joy.

Joy is a passion, in which the mind feels a
 sudden, and extraordinary pleasure; even one who
 has felt joy, knows, that like anger it excites the
 system and increases the circulation, it is
 moderate and existing only on the term of cheer-
 fulness it has a beneficial effect, and greatly

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conduces to health: but when unusually excited and violent, (and particularly if it follows extreme grief,) it is productive of immediate death, especially in *Musca*.

CASE 1st

In the year 1544, the fresh trade Siamus shipman, was lying in a part of the red sea, called Harsenee, and was pursuing for men, being then engaged in war with the Antioquese. While he was thus, he received the unexpected intelligence that his son, who in the siege of Tunis, had been made prisoner by Barbarossa, and by him doomed to slavery, was suddenly ransomed and coming to his aid with seven ships, well armed: the joyful news was too much for him; he was immediately struck as with apoplexy, and expired on the spot.

Vide. Crichton. Vol. 2. p. 176.

CASE 2nd

By worthy preceptor Dr. Chapman relates in his lectures, the case of a door-keeper to the House of Commons, who suddenly died with an apoplexy.

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CASE 3rd

A Roman Mother when bereaved her son, whom she thought long since dead, was inspired with joy, and expired under its effects.

I am, endeavored to show by the relation of various cases, that many diseases may be induced by mental impressions. I shall proceed to another part of the subject; viz. the influence of the same agents in restoring the body to a state of health.

I wish to show the influence of the passions, on the cure of diseases.

NOTE.

CASE 1st

A. Allen, born D^r. Maxwell, Henricks, of Logan County, Kentucky, to D^r. B. Bush, gives an account of a girl afflicted with rheumatism, who had not walked in two years or more; one father moved to the red bank on the Ohio, and took

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testimony in a room belonging to a man: The
case of diamonds, upon one pair of stairs, one even-
ing a circumstance occurred (which is detailed
in the letter,) that alarmed the family to such a
degree that they immediately fled down stairs.

The diseased girl, fearing to be left alone, in the night
rose up and followed the rest of the family, and
has continued free from pain ever since.

Medical Museum Vol. 4. 4. 3 p. 292.

Case 2nd

Judge Nash, of Kent County, once letter to his
brother F. A. Nash, which is published in his 5th
volume of inquiries and observations, p. 113. relates the
case of Ellen Bellin, a householdier in Scotland, who has
been severely afflicted with the gout in some means in
particular the last Feb. 1785, was so severe as to
induce an infirmity such that it would inevitably
bring her off, when in our medical view of the
following accident.

As she lay in a small back room adjoining the
yard, it happened that one of the sons in turning a
waggon and horses, drew the tongue of the waggon
with such force against the window near which

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p 187
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The old man lay stretched on a bed, as to beat in
the lattice of the window, and to scatter the pieces
of broken glass all about him; he such a degree was
inured by the noise and violence, that he con-
stantly leaped out of bed, forgot that he had
ever used crutches, and eagerly enquired what was
the matter.

His wife hearing the uproar, ran into the room,
where to her astonishment, she found her husband
on his feet, bawling against the author of the mischief
with the most desperate vehemence.

From this moment he has been entirely exempt
from the gout; has never had the slightest touch
of it, and now enjoys perfect health, has a good
appetite and says he never was heartier in his life.

CHAP. V.

Dr. Hall, in a letter to Dr. Rush published in
no second volume of enquiries and observations,
p. 182. relates a case of cholera cured by
night. The same author mentions several other
cases to prove the influence of sleep in
curing the disease.

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Cust. p.

The case of a man of letters is related by van-Suider, who having congealed his legs to be made of glass, would not therefore presume to stand or walk upon them, but being carried from the bed to the fire side, sat there from morning till night. The most violent cramping came over to him at the fire, & drove it rudely down, so as to hurt the charm him in fear of his glass legs, for which he therefore would abate nothing in the mind being an ass, & him in, and lost of new matter, & being struck him a good blow in the thigh with one of the sticks, the smart pain, & which raised his anger to get up and take revenge for the injury. When he was subdued, and he was well pleased that he could stand upon his legs again, that pain which being thus caused from his cancer. Van-Suider. Vol. II. p. 101.

Cust. p.

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Scotch gentleman, stb, of typhus fever, who sent for a
 clergyman and expressed to him his sorrow, for that
 he written a book against superstition; the clergyman
 told him he did not think the book hurt more
 minds injury, for that it had been but one little
 read, and had never circulated beyond an one
 neighbourhood. What is that you say? what the
 book man, no book ever read? begin, you are a fool,
 to begin to reason from this time.

119.

A gentle person endeavored to lose his head, in the
 summer he went in order to be cured, through the
 most remarkable cure of his disorder, which had so
 remarkably affected him, that although he was
 not shrouded with pain, and had lost the use
 of his mind, yet he got up in the first week, and
 returned with remarkable improvement and agility, and
 lived many years after without having the least
 return of the disorder. In case a person in the
 public records, and therefore must some degree of
 credit, can make it out.

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 system of logic is given, & the use of that beautiful

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disorder which affords a striking instance of the power of the imagination combined with hope in the cure of disease. *Found in the Survey. p. 352.*

Although no cases are inserted to show the transmutative power of grief, yet as a seductive passion, it may in certain cases, be advantageously opposed to rage.

Having considered the influence of the mind upon the body, in the production, as well as cure of diseases, and endeavoured to prove that even life may be suddenly extinguished by the force of mental impressions; I have at length arrived at the limits assigned for this essay; I am fully sensible of its many imperfections, the condition to which it expects my impotence, yet as liberality of sentiment is not attendant on minds that are endued with genius and judgement, this compels me to seek in the benevolent and enlightened professors of the University of Pennsylvania, the only refuge from my apprehensions, which their lenity and indulgence can afford: the acknowledgements and obligations which are due to those who have rendered us an essential service, are none, superior to such as the enlightening instructors of youth in the various departments of Science have a right to claim.

In thus expressing the warmest testimonies of

which a youthful heart is susceptible, it is a tribute
 offered from the most convincing belief of your integ-
 rity as man, and your ability as professional character;
 time and posterity will unfold to our admiring world.

Your well founded pretensions to station among
 the boasted literati of the European continent, when
 national prejudice will cease to oppose a barrier
 to the extension of your well merited fame, and
 then justice award you the celebrity which invariably
 crowns the exertions of literary ambition.

Edwin D. [Signature]